

Many people made church a success

To the Editor:

I enjoyed the recent article on the Pleasant Valley Church in Vigo. (The community is known as Vigo and the correct pronunciation of the county is Vee-go.)

However, the following additional information should have been included. I am unable to say whether this information was left out due to an oversight or otherwise.

The original church was located just west where the Harkness Lane ends at the Battlerow Road and would be about one and one-quarter mile south of the location of the present church.

The Rev. Richard Mattix and his wife Jo Ann faithfully pastored and served the church both on Sunday morning and Sun-

day evening for over 20 years beginning about 1963.

No mention was made of the following, without whose faithful dedication the church would no doubt have closed many years ago: Mr. and Mrs Ervin (Curly) Keegan; Mr. and Mrs Herbert Clark Sr.; Mrs. Fanny Myers; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Strain; Mrs. Mae Farrand; Mrs. Wilma Killion; and others.

Also, mention should have been made of Rev. Eldon Myers who served Pleasant Valley and the Farmers Chapel in Honey Creek Township and who either walked or drove a tractor to the church during the Depression.

— Robert A. Brown
Prairie Creek

Pleasant Valley Community Church

'loving, praying group'

Church celebrates 100 years

By Corina Curry

Tribune-Star

"I worked on the church house, Brother Long helped me mix plaster and mortar. On June 8, 1895, John Denal, plasterer, finished the church. On July 3 and 4, Brother Long and E. [Emmanuel] Clark put chairs together and on July 7, 1895, the church was dedicated to the Lord. A large crowd attended. Brother Long preached the first sermon in the new church. The church consisted of one large room, with three arched windows on each side and wooden double front doors."

These were the words Emmanuel Clark jotted down in his diary to remember the first days of Pleasant Valley Church of the United Brethren of Christ. Clark was one of the founding

fathers and trustees of the Vigo church.

The little white building, adorned with colorful stained glass windows on one side, still stands on its original foundation, and the bell that sounded out to church goers a century ago still works.

In honor of the church's 100th anniversary, the congregation of 35 to 40 people will celebrate Sunday with a special 10:30 a.m. service followed by a luncheon.



Thomas Charles Avellis

The church, declared independent in 1964 and renamed the Pleasant Valley Community Church, has gone through many a facelift since it was first built and dedicated to the Lord.

After decades of neglect, project after project needed to be completed before the church was ready to serve the people again.

"The floors were all warped and you could probably stick your hand through the wall on the outside," said James Brown, one of the three men who serve as trustees. "The structure wasn't very solid and there was no insulation. The seats were wooden chairs bolted together and they were real uncomfortable. . . . There were only fifteen people coming, at the most, at that time. A pastor would come on Sunday nights."

From 1988 to 1993, a 30-foot by 24-foot fellowship hall, indoor plumbing, four classrooms, furnaces, carpeting, pews and a baptistery were installed — all without the need of a mortgage.

"The Lord provides for us," Brown said. "When we need something, he gives it. We pray about it and as soon as you know — things are being donated. . . . the Lord said he'd take care of you if you obey him, and he does."

☆ ☆ ☆

Every Wednesday night, about 15 to 20 members of the Pleasant Valley Community Church gather to discuss the book of John.

Meeting at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, which consists of a large wooden table surrounded by metal folding chairs, the men and women ask questions and talk openly about what the Bible means to them.

It's an informal gathering where members of the congregation can tell stories and kid around a bit. Sometimes they sing. And they always end with a prayer.

The Bible study is led by Pastor James Shepherd, who congregation members describe as a "teacher preacher."

Shepherd, who served as assistant pastor at the Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church in Linton before arriving at Pleasant Valley last year, calls the few dozen members of the non-denominational community church "a very loving, praying group."

"If one of us has a problem, we all have it. If one of us rejoices, then we all rejoice," said church member Betty Brown.

Brown's mom, Wilma Phelps, is the church's oldest active

member. Her great-great-nephew is the youngest.

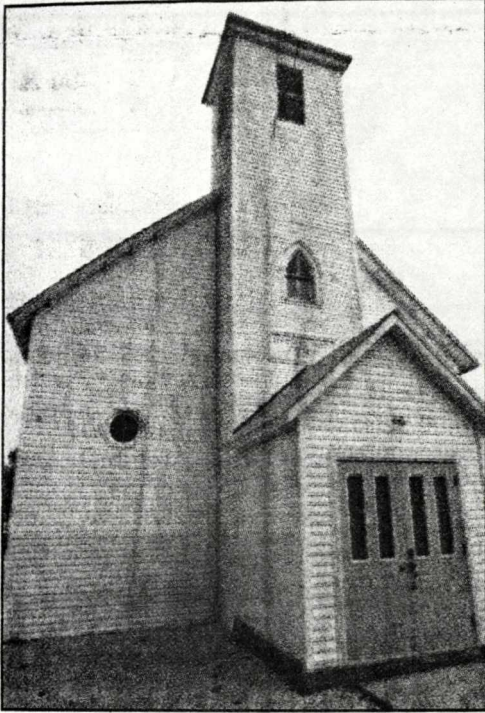
Church services are Sunday morning with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and church at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. There is also the weekly Wednesday night Bible study.

Pleasant Valley Community Church is south of Terre Haute, off of Indiana 63 at the corner of French Drive and Battlerow Place. All are welcome to join the congregation as it celebrates its 100th year.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Tribune-Star/Jim Avells

Singing praise: Pastor James Shepherd leads Joan Brown, Betty Brown and Sharon Ridge through choir practice at the Pleasant Valley Community Church on Wednesday nights. Pleasant Valley, a non-denominational congregation of 35 to 40 people, will celebrate the church's 100th anniversary Sunday with a special service followed by a luncheon.



Tribune-Star/Jim Avells

Teaching, learning: Members of Pleasant Valley Community Church meet on a regular basis to study the Bible. The evening is one of interaction between Pastor Jim Shepherd and his willing students.

The 34-year-old boyish-faced pastor hands out copies of his handwritten notes at the beginning of each class and uses them along with the Bible to help the class better understand God's message.

"In the past, this group wasn't taught," Shepherd explained. "There's a difference between teaching and preaching. I'm more of a Bible teacher. I want them to really know what the Bible says."

"I try to be a servant to the people," he said. "Being a pastor or a leader in the church, you have to be a servant. And I think teaching other people the gospel is being a servant. I'm here for the people."

See **Church**, Page D3

Background . . .

Church: Pleasant Valley Community Church.

Location: In Vigo about 20 miles south of Terre Haute off of Indiana 63. At the corner of French Drive and Battlerow Place.

Pastor: James Shepherd

Services: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Church at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m.

History: Dedicated July 7, 1895 as the Pleasant Valley Church of the United Brethren of Christ. Purchased from the Indiana Southern Conference of Evangelical United Brethren Churches in December 1964 for \$250.

At that time, also incorporated as an independent, non-denominational church and renamed Pleasant Valley Community Church.

Brandenburg Memorial to Celebrate Anniversary With Mortgage Burning

Feb 5/2/43



THE OLD AND THE NEW CHURCH.

The Brandenburg Memorial U. B. church, Thirtieth street and Maple avenue, will conduct special services throughout Sunday in celebration of the fourth anniversary of the dedication of the new church.

A feature of the observance will be a mortgage burning ceremony at 1:40 o'clock in the afternoon. Bishop F. L. Dennis, of the northwest area will officiate and Superintendent V. G. Hunt will deliver a sermon, "Turning From My Way to God's Way" at the morning church services.

A program of music by the Gerst-meyer orchestra will open the afternoon program at which time Bishop

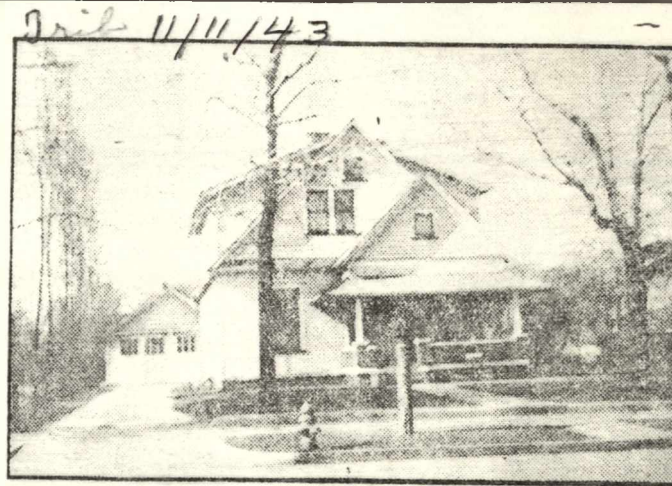
Dennis will have as his sermon topic, "The Church Triumphant."

Musicians of the First Baptist church will present a half-hour program of sacred instrumental and vocal music at the evening service. At this time, Rev. A. R. Jensen, pastor of the church, will deliver the sermon, having as his subject, "The Outlook For the Future of Brandenburg Memorial."

The church was originally founded by the late Rev. J. L. Brandenburg about 20 years ago and the former church structure was erected on the north side of Maple avenue, just across the street from the present church.

Churches (WV)
Otterbein UB

Parsonage Dedication Will Mark Otterbein Home-Coming Festivities



ADDITION TO OTTERBEIN CHURCH.

A feature of the home-coming services at the Otterbein United Brethren church, located on Twenty-fifth at Deming, on Sunday, Nov. 14, will be the dedication of the new parsonage.

The new parsonage, purchased by the local congregation Aug. 25, is located at 1908 Washington avenue. The dedication will be at 2 o'clock and will be in charge of Dr. Virgil G. Hunt, superintendent of White River Conference and former pastor of Otterbein church.

Erwin Ford, who was active in the building of the Otterbein church, will conduct a praise service at the parsonage.

Rev. and Mrs. Bennett Fulp and daughters will hold open house for all who would like to view the parsonage at the close of the dedication services. The pastor will give the home-coming message at the morning service. The adult choir and Dr. and Mrs. Hunt will sing. The basket dinner will be served at 12 o'clock.

Dr. Hunt will give the message at the evening service and Mildred and Vera Pollit will sing. The public is invited to these services.

Macksville Gazette 1-21-82

New Goshen U.B. Church Rich in History

(Churches Vigo Co)

*Churches WV
New Goshen
U.B.*

The following article was submitted by Lee Johnson, New Goshen Postmaster.

In 1842, Rev. John P. Shuey of the Clinton Circuit, Wabash Conference, organized the United Brethren Church of New Goshen.

The following were charter members: Kenny Rhyan, Margaret Rhyan, John Bustner, Sarah Bustner, Noah Minnick, Mary Minnick, John Funkhouser, Polly Funkhouser, Daniel Shirley, Sarah Shirley, John Strole, Betsy Strole, Simson Strole, Jane Strole, Daniel Shirley, Sr., Betsy Shirley, William Fawcett, Susan Whitesell, Jacob Whitesell and Sally Whitesell.

Services were held in a church $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile north of New Goshen from 1842-1855. The old Brick Cemetery is now located at that spot.

The sixteenth session of the Wabash Conference was held at this first church on September 13, 1849. Bishop David Edwards presided and James Griffith was elected chairman and William Jones Secretary.

The following resolutions were put before the Conference and voted upon:

1. That no brother use tobacco in the house during the hours of conference.
2. That the question be put to every member of the conference—Do you believe in the doctrine of the future eternal punishment?

The names of each member were called and all answered in the affirmative concerning the second resolution.

A frame church was erected at the present site at a cost of \$1500 under the pastorate of Rev. John Burtner. The trustees were Henry Rhyan, John Burtner, and John Strole. The class worshiped in this building from 1855 to 1885.

In 1858 another conference was held in New Goshen. At this time the Wabash Conference was divided into the Upper and Lower Wabash Conferences. Again in 1879, a conference was held in New Goshen. Bishop David Edwards presided at each of these sessions.

In 1879 the frame church was partly destroyed by a storm and was torn down. In its place a brick church was built on the same site at a cost of \$4,000. Rev. Josiah Sheily was the pastor at this time. The trustees were John Strole, John Koonce, Joseph Foltz, Gene B. Owens and Noah Minnick. The brick used in this building was found on land owned by John Strole, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile north on the Range Line Road.

In 1881, the last conference was held in New Goshen. Bishop Keparth presided.

During the years of 1880-1889, the church was divided on the question of secret orders, such as the Masons. A final division took place in churches throughout the denomination in 1889.

In 1888, Rev. Walters was pastor and Mrs. Emma Shores was Sunday School Superintendent. Some of the other Superintendents included Dr. S.M. Bennett and Ira Andrews, who served for 14 years.

Between the years of 1899-1901 Rev. Broadstone was the pastor.

About 1894 the parsonage was destroyed by fire and pastors were forced to live other places.

In May 1909, the Lower Wabash Conference was made part of the White River Conference.

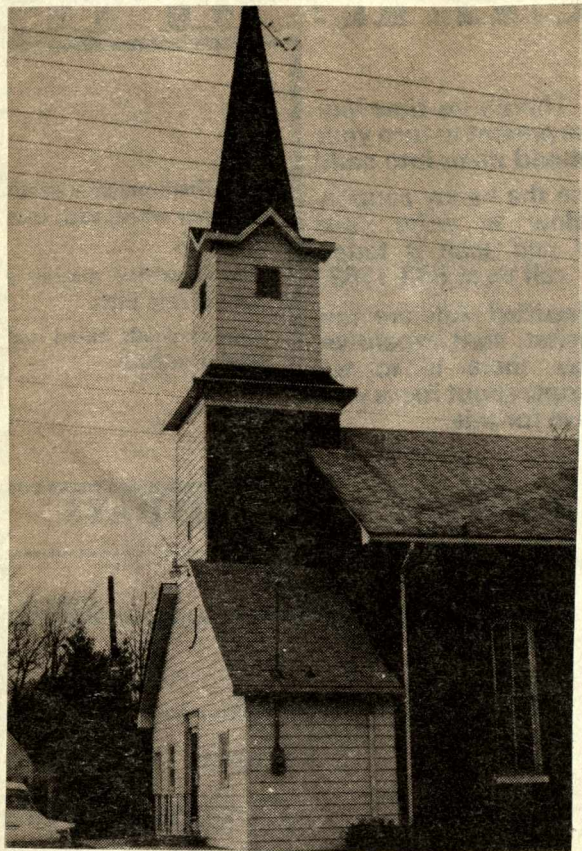
Under the pastorate of Rev. R.S. Parr, who served from 1914 to 1918, a new parsonage was built with the help of a class of Bethlehem Church. (In 1940, the New Goshen Church purchased the interest of that church.)

From 1921-1924, the Rev. W.M. Griffin was pastor. In 1927-28, under the pastorate of Mac Reed, the basement of the church was built and dedicated. In 1937 Rev. William Todd sent Lucy R. Sharp, who served seven years. Some evangelists under Mrs. Sharp's pastorate were Joe Haley, Carlyle Scott, Sylvester Sandford and others.

In 1964, the New Goshen church united with other churches to build a new church out in the country. The last service held in the old church was December 12, 1965. It was then vacated and left as only a memory of years gone by.

In October, 1967, the Conference sold the church and parsonage to Reverend William Butler's Apostolic Pentecostal Church.

At the time of the sale, pigeons had taken over the belfry and the building was in such rundown condition that making it serviceable seemed a hopeless task. But the job was done, and the New Goshen community can once again hear the old bell ring, on one of the oldest old bell ring on one of the oldest churches in Indiana.





things I see and hear

by BEA

Beatrice Biggs

First - The Rev. 2-1960

A HISTORY not equalled perhaps by any other church is that of Farmers Chapel. First organized as the Farmers' Chapel United Brethren Church it is now an interdenominational church.

The Farmers' Chapel Class was organized in the home of John Owen southeast of the present site in Honey Creek Township in 1866. Charter members included John and Sarah Ryman, Jeremiah and Rebecca Hayworth, William and Nancy Yeager, Tilden and Minerva Hayworth, John and Phoebe Owen, Alexander and Ellen Moore, Washington and Malinda Hess, Isiah Adams, Jane Cruse, George Berkebile, Daniel Miller, Hiram and Laura Sparks, Joseph and Jane Adams, George, David and Clinton Boyle.

Jeremiah Hayworth was chosen Classleader and the work began and continued for about four years, with others joining the group. They began the erection of the frame church near the Owen homestead in 1870 with John Owen, John Ryman and Alexander Moore first trustees. This building was moved to its present location in 1874. Ira Mater was one of the first pastors.

With a gradual increase in membership it was decided to expand. Under the direction of Pastor J. L. Brandenburg the new brick edifice was begun. Being completed at a cost of approximately \$27,000 Bishop Fout was called and it was dedicated June 12, 1920.

Moved During War.

In the year of 1942 the church and surrounding territory was taken by the federal government for the Vigo Ordnance Plant. Services continued in the Honey Creek High School Building with the Rev. Mr. Mumford as pastor, later moving to Youngstown where the Rev. Mr. Schlarb preached.

Due to the shortage of gasoline and many members moving from the community the remaining members merged their membership with the Breden Memorial Church in Terre Haute.

Purchase Church.

In December, 1949, after learn-

ing that the church could be bought from the government, 29 farmers, former members and friends agreed to purchase the building. With \$800 from their treasury and \$1,500 donated by Breden Memorial Church, the building was purchased in February, 1950. A meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Rich to organize a Ladies Society.

Committees were appointed and plans made to begin work on the church basement. Lights were installed in the building and both men and women worked untiringly to ready the basement for services.

On June 4, 1950, 34 men, women and children gathered in the front part of the basement with 50 chairs and a barrel for a pulpit and organized the Sunday School. The following Sunday the first Sunday school services were held.

On June 30 the church was organized and trustees elected. After the new furnace was installed in November 1950 the young people of the church were determined to hold their Christmas services upstairs but could it be done in such a short time. Again members and friends rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Men who couldn't leave their work during the day came at night and so the work went on around the clock. The women were on hand with well filled baskets and their paint brushes. On Dec. 23, 1950, the congregation gathered for the first service in the remodeled and decorated sanctuary. Other special services were held thereafter.

"The work has been hard but bonds of friendship and good fellowship have been established between members as they labored together without thought of self, for a common goal," is the feeling expressed by any member one might ask about the church.

In October, 1951, a Community Fellowship was organized under the direction of Herschel Pershing. Walter Jolsen took over the choir, organized by Jane Crume, and continued as director for several years.

Pews were purchased and after the carpet was laid in October, 1952, the building was rededicated Farmers Chapel Community Church.

In April, 1959, a new piano was added to the church and in the summer the primary Sunday School was reorganized and several new classes added.

The Rev. Eldon Meyers is pastor of the church and John Foltz is superintendent of the Sunday School.



MISS VIRGINIA CORNWELL whose engagement to George Cole is announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cornwell, Marshall, Mr. Cole is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole, Lake Forest, Ill. The date of their wedding was not announced.

cider. A huge woodpile gathered earlier, lay waiting. All day long, young and old, cut and cored apples, which were cooked down and run through sieves by the women. A night shift worked late into the evening until every apple basket was empty and great kettles of apple sauce sat cooling for the next day.

On the second day a fire was prepared in the churchyard by the men while the women mixed applesauce, cider, sugar and spices according to an age-old recipe. Nina Burnett supervises the apple butter making.

For many hours that day the apple butter simmered in the bright copper kettles and after many tastings to determine when the flavor was just right, it was popped into sparkling, sterile jars to await Festival Day. Over 100 quarts were canned that first year and sold at the Festival but after sampling it everyone wanted more.

It has become an annual event, the making and selling of this delicious old-fashioned apple butter. Each year more orders come in and people come from miles away to purchase the butter.

Work days this year will be Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5 and 6.

The apple butter will be available as usual at the Fall Festival at the chapel. The bazaar opens Oct. 15 with a country-style fried chicken dinner complete with all

the trimmings and lots of home-made pies and cakes. There will also be a booth of needlework, candy, canned goods, garden and orchard produce, baking and other familiar bazaar items.

DO NOT REFERENCE
CIRCULATE
Emeline Fairbanks Mem. Library

Make Apple Butter.

Several years ago while reminiscing about the "good old days," an oldster of the church recalled the apple butter grandma used to make. Little was it realized what this idle remark would lead to.

The men and women at once decided to set aside at least two days each fall to make old-fashioned cider apple butter by their grandmothers' prized recipe.

One attic yielded a long-handled paddle, dark with age but rich in memories of many hours of patient stirring over an open fire. In other garages and barns were found huge copper kettles also used many years before.

Finally all was in readiness and one crisp, tangy fall day folks started gathering at the church with baskets of apples, paring knives, sieves and colanders, pots, pans and jugs of

Mr Churches W

1/5/61

Non-Interdenom.